



## Glossary of Terms

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**Androgyny:** A term used to describe gender expressions that have both masculine and feminine characteristics, but are not strictly either.

**Cisgender:** This term is pronounced /sis-gender/. An adjective to describe a person whose gender identity is aligned with the gender identity they were assigned at birth on the basis of their perceived biological sex.

**Femininity:** Qualities that are thought of as being womanly, that are typically ascribed to women, and that are considered to be socially appropriate for a woman's behavior. **Not** all people who exhibit feminine qualities are women, not all women exhibit exclusively feminine qualities.

**Gender (Gender Identity):** This is the label someone may choose to describe themselves, such as: man, woman, non-binary. It represents a person's deep-seated, internal sense of who they are as a gendered being. This describes how someone identifies, regardless of their sex assigned at birth.

**Gender Binary:** The idea that there are only two genders: man and woman, rather than a continuum or spectrum of gender identities and expressions. The gender binary is often considered to be limiting and an inaccurate way to describe gender diversity.

**Gender Expression:** A person's outward gender presentation in relationship to their culture, usually comprised of personal style, clothing, hairstyle, makeup, jewelry, vocal inflection and body language, etc. Gender expression is typically categorized as masculine, feminine or androgynous.

**Gender Roles:** The set of expectations that are ascribed to a certain gender in any given culture, relating to how to people of that gender "should" (among other things) behave, talk, dress, etc.

**Genderfluid:** A person whose gender identity or expression shifts between masculine and feminine.

**Gender Marker:** The marker (male or female) that appears on a person's identity documents (e.g., birth certificate, driver's license, passport, travel or work visas, green cards, etc.). The gender marker on a transgender person's identity documents will be their sex assigned at birth until they undergo a legal and logistical process to change it, where possible.

**Gender Non-Conforming:** A person whose gender expression is perceived as being outside of cultural norms expected for that gender.

**Genderqueer:** A person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders.

**Intersex:** An umbrella term that describes a person born with sex characteristics (e.g. genetic, genital, sexual/reproductive or hormonal configurations) that do not fit typical binary notions of female or male biological sex. The term describes a wide range of natural variations in human bodies. Intersex is frequently confused with transgender, but the two are completely distinct and generally unconnected. A more familiar term, h\*rm\*phrodite, is considered outdated and offensive.



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**LGBTQ:** An acronym commonly used to refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning individuals and communities.

**Masculinity:** Qualities that are thought of as being manly, that are typically ascribed to men, and that are considered to be socially appropriate for a man's behavior. **Not** all people who exhibit masculine qualities are men, not all men exhibit exclusively masculine qualities.

**Non-binary:** Terms used by some people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as falling outside the categories of man and woman. They may define their gender as falling somewhere in between man and woman, or they may define it as wholly different from these terms.

**Sex Assigned at Birth:** The determination of a person's sex based on the visual appearance of the genitals at birth. The sex someone is labeled at birth.

**Sexual Orientation:** A person's feelings of attraction (emotional, psychological, physical, and/or sexual) towards other people. People who do not experience sexual attraction may identify as asexual.

**Straight:** A heterosexual person. A person attracted to someone of a gender different from their own.

**Transgender:** An adjective that describes a person whose gender identity is not the same as the gender identity they were assigned at birth on the basis of their perceived biological sex.

**Transgender men and transgender boys:** A man or a boy who was assigned female at birth. Also sometimes referred to as trans men.

**Transgender women and transgender girls:** A woman or a girl who was assigned male at birth. Also sometimes referred to as trans women.

**Two-spirit:** A term used by some Native and Indigenous people to North America to indicate that they embody both a masculine and a feminine spirit, or to describe people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third-gender.